

# SAN LEANDRO CREEK / TRAIL

## **Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION**

The San Leandro Creek PCA is unique in that it flows in and out of the Oakland borders, and therefore will represent a collaborative opportunity with the City of San Leandro. It supports a native trout population and has identified sites for creek restoration. Designated as one of two priority streams by the Conservation Lands Network within Oakland, it merits Natural Landscape, Regional Recreation, and Urban Greening designation.

As a Natural Landscape, it benefits **Terrestrial Ecosystems, Water Supply & Water Quality** and **Aquatic Ecosystems**. Co-benefits include Recreation, Climate & Resilience and Compact Growth.

San Leandro Creek is a Priority Stream as determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservation Lands Network. Within 50 ft. of the stream are many Undeveloped Parcels, assessed by the City of Oakland to have less than \$10,000 in improvements that could help preserve creek functions. Through Measure DD, the City of Oakland designated Priority Creek Restoration Sites, one of which is found in the middle of San Leandro Creek. These water features benefit Aquatic Ecosystems by protecting targeted streams, they benefit Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting critical riparian corridors and the diversity of animals using them, and they benefit Water Supply & Water Quality by supporting watershed health and protecting downstream water uses. They co-benefit Climate & Resilience and Recreation.

Parcels along San Leandro Creek are considered Bay Area Protected Areas by the Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC), private land and parks with conservation easements. The headwaters of the creek form a Resource Conservation Area, land zoned as open space on the City of Oakland zoning maps, and a Botanical Priority Protection Area, identified by the California Native Plant Society for its opportunities, threats, and constraints to botanical health. Where the creek flows into the San Leandro Bay is a park managed by East Bay Regional Park District, Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline. Therefore, the San Leandro Creek / Trail PCA benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting unique habitat and botanical areas of high priority, and co-benefits Compact Growth and Climate & Resilience.

The PCA also includes Fragmented Habitat, determined by BAOSC's Conservation Land Network, and Bay Area Critical Linkage land, as demonstrated by mapping from Science and Collaboration for Connected Wildlands. The creek forms Wetlands when it reaches the bay, shown by San Francisco Estuary Institute maps, which provide Important Bird Habitat, as determined by Audobon Society. It therefore benefits by Aquatic Ecosystems and Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting critical habitat and wetlands that improve biodiversity and support bird populations.

San Leandro Creek / Trail PCA also has features that benefit **Recreation** and should be designated Regional Recreation.

Along the creek greenway are proposed and existing Class 1 Bikeways, as determined by the City of Oakland. Where San Leandro Creek empties into the bay, both East Bay Regional Park District trails, maintained by EBRP, and the San Francisco Bay Trail encircle the mouth of the creek. Regional trails benefit Recreation, and co-benefit Wildlife Habitat, Water Supply & Water Quality, and Climate & Resilience.

The aforementioned **Recreation** benefits also contribute to the San Leandro Creek / Trail's designation as an Urban Greening PCA. As a Priority Stream with a Priority Creek Restoration Site, the creek benefits **Community Health** by increasing urban tree cover in a location anticipated to experience urban heat island effect and **Climate & Resilience** by increasing acreage with carbon storage potential.